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1890-12-24

## Letter from Maggie [Margaret Muir Reid] to John Muir, 1890 Dec 24.

Margaret Muir Reid

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Collyer, Kansas, Dec 24<sup>th</sup>  
1898

My Dear Brother John

I wish you all  
a happy Christmas & glad  
New Year & every good  
in time, and for ever

This is Christmas  
eve May & John jr has gone  
to the village to a S. S. School  
entertainment & Christmas tree.  
Harry is in Crete visiting Anna  
& Jessie (having had a chance  
to go with a shipment of sheep  
for Mr. Arnold the man who  
owns the sheep John cares for)

I & John & I are alone & we  
have just been reading  
letters from all three they have  
had a good visit & He is ready  
to come home. We have

also heard from the dear <sup>[2]</sup>  
ones in Portage Wis. & They are  
all pretty well. What-a  
blessed thing it is that we  
can write to each other at-  
least. How glad I am that  
Sarah & I visited you & your  
dear ones in your California  
home, so we can think of  
you all & your surroundings  
about-as they are and we  
know what-a sad  
vacancy the Death of Good  
Kind & Energetic Dr. Strentzel  
has made. I am so sorry  
for Mrs. Strentzel she will  
feel so lonely. But Lonie  
& the children will be  
if possible more to her than  
ever.

I feel bad John  
awful sorry to think that  
your kind help in money  
matters has to so many of us



has so far proved so much  
worse than I anticipated to you  
& I do hope & hope & pray  
that ere very long times  
may be better for all. &  
you did right in this  
last case.

John has been sorry many  
times he got so much land. but  
he had money in the bank  
drawing ten per cent interest \$2000.  
& that on the land was only super.  
& at that time the stock market took  
a big tumble & they <sup>R & Z</sup> had 6000 fat sheep  
ready to ship & that money & about  
every thing else went. & John  
thought he would sell the land.  
(& he could have sold for more  
than double. twice as much anyway  
as what he paid for it) but  
monied friends offered to see him  
through & every one thought it  
was too good an investment to  
throw away. W Brown was there  
about that time when John wanted to

[3]

sell the land for six dollars an acre  
& he said "no I can sell it for  
7 dol. but dont you do it John, it  
is worth more". Then the  
President of the Crite Bank  
wanted to buy out Sarahs  
share for \$6000, which would  
just have doubled all the money  
she had. I wrote to Brother David  
& Sarah about. but David did not think  
he knew enough about <sup>it</sup> to take the  
responsibility of advising Sarah  
& John thought she might get  
more by waiting & so these good  
chances went by. & as I said I  
lost about everything by those sheep  
well next year they made some money  
on sheep but after that by Fosters  
mistakes & rashness mostly, came  
loss. upon loss, then a big loss  
when they dissolved partnership.  
(which I always wished from the  
first had never been formed)  
from which John has had no  
chance whatever to recover



with no means & almost  
 no crops for so long. Though  
 the Land is good if we only  
 had the moisture. J. has  
 been trying hard to sell it this  
 last summer & Fall for money  
 or more saleable property & had  
 a prospect of selling to a man  
 in Iowa who had a lot of boys  
 & wanted a big piece of land <sup>all</sup> together  
 for a stock farm but at the time  
 he was to come & look it over sick-  
 -ness in his family prevented him  
 J. has put it into the hands of a  
 Land Agent promising him \$500  
 if he can make a sale. but at  
 present for land there is almost no  
 sale only there is more hope of ours so  
 much of it being together & well  
 being helpless in the meantime  
 he J. wrote to the Land Co. stating his  
 case & asking what they would  
 do with him if he failed to raise

the money by the 29 of Dec. They wrote back a few lines to the effect that under the circumstances they would extend the time till Dec 29. 1891. & oh what a relief it was John. for if the contracts had been cancelled how could we ever pay what was borrowed on it besides what we have payed on it

I do hope we can sell it the coming year -

Dear John I did not mean to take you through this long unpleasant story but only to send good wishes for the new year so forgive me John

Give my love to Louie & may the Lord Bless her & comfort her since her great loss of her dear Father. also remember me with kind regards to Mrs. Strout Gil & a Kiss for Wanda & Helen as always Maggie